Abstract of the Disclosure:

A data-processing device, in particular a network processor for processing layer 1 to 7 of protocol stacks in applications such as LAN, ATM switches, IP routers or frame relays which are based on DSL, Ethernet or cable modems. The processor has

5 instruction buffers, instruction decoders, and instruction-execution units corresponding to a number of processes to be processed in parallel. A program flow control unit essentially controls the parallel processing.

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